

Appl. No. 10/662,073
Amdt. dated January 15, 2008
Reply to Office Action of December 28, 2007

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The present invention is directed to absorbent composites comprising superabsorbent material, which may address the above-described problems associated with currently available absorbent composites. The absorbent composites of the present invention may comprise superabsorbent material, where the superabsorbent material has: an Absorption Time of about $5+10a^2$ minutes or greater, where a is the mean particle size of the superabsorbent material in millimeters; and a capacity as measured by the FAUZL test of about 15 g/g or greater. ~~The absorbent composites of the present invention have a Drop Penetration Value of about 2 seconds or less.~~ In addition, the superabsorbent material has been neutralized from 30 mole % to 65 mole % with a monovalent metal hydroxide, and further from 5 mole % to 40 mole % with a divalent metal hydroxide. Such a combination ~~of properties~~ for superabsorbent material may enable an absorbent composite to provide beneficial behavior in terms of not locking up all the liquid in the vicinity of where liquid enters the absorbent product thus providing better liquid distribution and maintaining a lower level of saturation in the target area to provide a more intake-friendly structure for a longer portion of the absorbent composite life. Unlike some known absorbent composites, which lose their fluid intake performance over the life of the absorbent composite, the absorbent composites of the present invention may exhibit superior liquid distribution and fluid intake after multiple insults to the absorbent composite. --

Please add the following new paragraphs after the paragraph ending on line 22 of page 4 of the originally filed application:

-- **Figure 11** is a perspective view of an absorbent composite wherein the superabsorbent material is substantially homogeneously distributed within the absorbent composite.

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Figure 12 is a perspective view of an absorbent composite wherein the superabsorbent material is zoned within a target area of the absorbent composite.

Figure 13 is a perspective view of an absorbent composite comprising a plurality of layers and where the superabsorbent material is located in a layer of the absorbent composite.

Figure 14 is a perspective view of an absorbent composite comprising a plurality of layers where the superabsorbent material is zoned within a target area of a layer of the absorbent composite.

Figure 15 is a perspective view of an absorbent composite where the superabsorbent material is incorporated primarily away from a target area of the absorbent composite. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 33 of the originally filed application with the following amended paragraph:

-- With reference to Figure 11, in[[[In]]] one embodiment of the present invention, the absorbent composite 701 comprising superabsorbent materials 810 of the present invention may be placed essentially throughout the entire absorbent composite and/or absorbent product. With reference to Figures 12 and 14, in[[[In]]] another embodiment of the present invention, the superabsorbent materials 810 within the absorbent composite 701 may be present primarily in the target area 814 in the immediate proximity of where liquid enters the absorbent product. With reference to Figure 15, in[[[In]]] yet another embodiment of the present invention, the superabsorbent materials 810 in the absorbent composite 701 may be incorporated primarily away from the target area 814. --

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 5 of the originally filed application with the following amended paragraph:

-- With reference to Figure 11, the[[The]] absorbent composite 701 may be formed by mixing the superabsorbent materials 810 in an essentially homogeneous 812 manner. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 28 of the originally filed application with the following amended paragraph:

-- With reference to Figures 11-14, it[[In]] should be noted that the superabsorbent material 810 may be distributed uniformly 812 within the absorbent composite 701 or may be non-uniformly distributed within the absorbent composite. The superabsorbent material 810 may be distributed throughout the entire absorbent composite 701 or may be distributed within a small, localized area 814 of the absorbent composite 701. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 34 of the originally filed application with the following amended paragraph:

-- With reference to Figures 11-15, the[[The]] absorbent composites 701 of the present invention may be formed from a single layer of absorbent material or multiple layers of absorbent material. In the case of multiple layers 816, the layers 816 may be positioned in a side-by-side or surface-to-surface relationship and all or a portion of the layers 816 may be bound to adjacent layers. In those instances where the absorbent composite includes multiple layers, the entire thickness of the absorbent composite may contain one or more superabsorbent materials or each individual layer may separately contain some or no superabsorbent materials. Each individual layer may also contain different superabsorbent materials from an adjacent layer. --